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THE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES.

ADDRESS BY HON. JAMES G. BLAINE,
Secretary of State.

"Gentlemen—I withhold for a moment the word of final adjournment of the International American Conference, in order that I may express to you the profound satisfaction with which the Government of the United States regards the work that has been accomplished by the International Conference. The importance of the subjects which have claimed your attention, the comprehensive intelligence and watchful patriotism which you have brought to their discussion, must challenge the confidence and secure the admiration of the Governments and peoples whom you represent, while that larger patriotism which constitutes the fraternity of nations has received from you an impulse such as the world has not before seen. The extent and value of all that has been worthily achieved by your conference cannot be measured to-day. We stand too near it; time will define and heighten the estimate of your work; experience will confirm our present faith; final results will be your vindication and your triumph. *If, in this closing hour, the conference had but one deed to celebrate, we should dare call the world's attention to the deliberate, confident, solemn dedication of two great continents to peace, and to the prosperity which has peace for its foundation. We hold up this new Magna Charta, which abolishes war and substitutes arbitration between the American Republics, as the first and great fruit of the International American Conference.* That noblest of Americans, the aged poet and philanthropist, Whittier, is the first to send his salutation and his benediction, declaring: "*If in the spirit of peace the American Conference agrees upon a rule of arbitration which shall make war in this hemisphere well nigh impossible, its session will prove one of the most important events in the history of the world.*" I am instructed by the President to express the wish that before the members of the conference shall leave for their distant homes they accept the hospitality of the United States in a visit to the southern

section of the Union, similar to the one they have already made to the eastern and western sections. The President trusts that the tour will not only be a pleasant incident of your farewell to the country, but that you will find advantage in a visit to so interesting and important a part of our republic. May I express to you, gentlemen, my deep appreciation of the honor you did me in calling me to preside over your deliberations? Your kindness has been unceasing, and for your formal words of approval I offer you my sincerest gratitude. Invoking the blessing of Almighty God upon the patriotic and fraternal work which has been here begun for the good of mankind, I now declare the American International Conference adjourned without day."

CLOSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

At noon, April 19, the Pan-American Conference adjourned sine die.

After the transaction of some routine business and the adoption of resolutions offered by Delegate Alfonso of Chili, pledging the sympathetic association of the members of the conference with the quadro-centennial celebration of the discovery of America, and by Delegate Bolet Peraza of Venezuela, expressing their gratitude for the hospitality of the United States, a motion to adjourn sine die was made and put to a vote.

At 11.50 A. M. Mr. Blaine, the President of the Conference, rising to announce the result, made the remarkable address printed first on this page of the ADVOCATE. A Washington reporter says:

The delivery of the address was characterized by Mr. Blaine's customary deliberate emphasis, and also by evidences of deep feeling on his part. Toward the close his voice trembled with emotion, and when he took his seat the Council Chamber rang with hearty and long continued applause. The members of the conference then took carriages to the Executive mansion to pay their parting respects to the President. On arrival they were received by the President in the East Room shortly after noon, each of them being introduced to him personally by Secretary Blaine.

President Harrison then spoke as follows: "I find in this parting call of the delegates of the Conference of American States both pain and pleasure. I participate in the regret which the delegates from the United States feel who are to part with those from other countries. I take pleasure in the knowledge of the fact that your labors have been brought to a happy conclusion. The differences of

opinion have been happily reconciled. *I remark with pleasure the proposition which will be productive of peace among the American States represented in the conference. It will be without excuse if one of them shall lift a hostile hand against the other. We gave you the other day a review of a small detachment of the American army—not to show you that we have an army, but that we have none; that our securities are lodged with our people, and that they are safe. We rejoice that you have found in the organization of our country something which commends itself to your own. We shall be glad to receive new lessons in return. In conclusion, I find much to approve in the friendly purposes of the conference toward this Government, and I will bid each and every one of you a heartfelt good-by.*"

The remarks of the President were greeted with applause.

GOOD NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

Rev. R. B. Howard, who was sent to Washington by the Executive Committee of the American Peace Society to represent it in several important matters under discussion, makes the following encouraging report of Peace and Arbitration matters as he found them.

The delegate of the American Peace Society who was sent to Washington (1) to represent that body on the platform of the Conference on the Christian Principles of Civil Government, and (2) to urge the passage of the Sherman Arbitration Resolution by the House of Representatives, and (3) to secure, if possible, some action by the Conference of American Nations on Arbitration; after spending a week in Washington for the promotion of these objects, having addressed the Conference on Reform, returned to Boston April 11th.

April 3—The Sherman Resolution passed the House of Representatives. April 8—The Committee on General Welfare of the International Conference made their remarkable report, which awaits the final action of that body and of the several governments represented in it. The report is in precisely the line indicated by the speech of Hon. C. R. Flint published in the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* (March-April), page 66, and also the letter of Hon. T. Jefferson Coolidge, published on page 54 of the same paper, who said, "I trust that all the States of the Americas may join in some plan to substitute for war an attempt at arbitration." The recommendations of the Committee are introduced by a preamble, reciting the belief of the delegates that war is a cruel, unnecessary and ineffective method of settling international disputes; that the educated sentiment of humanity approves the choice of arbitration as the best method of reaching a satisfactory settlement of differences, and that the meeting of this Pan-American Conference demonstrates that the people of the Western Hemisphere are willing and ready to enforce among themselves the principle of arbitration.

The Committee then go on to recommend the negotiation of a general treaty by the Republics of North, South and Central America and Hayti, to refer to arbitration, for settlement, all disputes, differences and contentions that may arise between any two of the nations. Arbitration shall be compulsory upon all the nations in matters of diplomatic etiquette, territories, boundaries, questions of navigation, the enforcement, construction or validity of treaties, and in other matters arising from any cause

whatever. In case, however, a nation believes its independence is at stake, arbitration shall not be compulsory.

The report sets forth in detail the manner in which arbitrators shall be selected, and the manner of reaching and declaring their judgments. There is no restriction of choice of arbitrators—they may be nations, scientific societies, officials, or private citizens. Unless it is specifically agreed previously that unanimous judgment shall be required, a majority of the arbitrators shall decide the question at issue. Where the arbitrators consist of an even number each nation may appoint an umpire. Any nation deeming itself interested in or affected by the decision of any question may appoint an arbitrator in the case. It is provided that ratifications of the treaty shall be exchanged at Washington, and it shall be in force for twenty years from the date of its proclamation. After that term has expired the treaty shall remain in force until one year after any nation has given notice to all the other nations party thereto of its desire to withdraw, but the withdrawal of any nation shall not relieve the other nations of their duties under the agreement.

The friends of international arbitration find expressed in this report the views which Hon. J. G. Blaine, the president of the Conference, has often uttered, and which have been frequently endorsed by Andrew Carnegie, one of its most influential delegates.

That they will be opposed is a matter of course. The New York *Herald*, for instance, at once raised the cry, "Compulsory Arbitration; the United States the Sheriff to enforce it on feeble States!" No compulsion except of a moral and legal kind is hinted at in the report. If nations do not keep the proposed treaty they mutually agree upon the time and manner of withdrawing from its obligations.

The greatest of the republics uniting in the treaty would naturally exert an influence proportionate to its position, but it would have no power to enforce its views any more than the least. Delegates from the Argentine Republic and the United States of Brazil are thus commended in the address of Mr. Flint above alluded to.

"In an important, I might say the most important, field of conference, that of substituting arbitration for war as a means of adjusting international disputes, the honorable Delegates from the Argentine Republic and from the United States of Brazil, powerful and progressive nations, representing an advanced civilization, have not only taken the best course to insure the political independence of the Republics of America, but they have done more to establish the confidence which is at the basis of all commerce, than would be accomplished by any other measure which could be proposed in this Conference. We welcome them as co-workers in that great cause which aims to banish war from all the Americas, and by America's great example to discourage it throughout the world."

—Rev. C. J. Ryder writes in the *American Missionary*, "I heard in a colored church in St. Augustine the following prayer: 'O Lord! overcome those who oppress us, not by sword and bayonet and blood, but by the power of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.' When the spirit that that prayer breathes becomes the spirit of the whole people of the South, black and white, the present condition of things will come to an end."